

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Kindly amend claim 4 as follows.

The following is a complete listing of revised claims with a status identifier in parenthesis.

**LISTING OF CLAIMS**

1. (Previously Presented) A method of managing traffic flow across links of an information network, comprising:

monitoring traffic demands from a source node of an information network to a destination node of the network, including bandwidths associated with each of the traffic demands;

determining for each traffic demand and for a given link of the network, that portion of the bandwidth associated with each traffic demand which portion is provided by the given link;

determining a maximum value of link utilization among all links of the network, where link utilization is defined as the amount of bandwidth used by all traffic demands routed through a given link with respect to a total capacity of the link;

calculating a cost metric for each link of the network based on information comprising the traffic demand and maximum value of link utilization;

selecting a path with consideration to minimizing the maximum value of link utilization based on each cost metric; and  
routing the traffic demands across the path.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising routing traffic demands over more than one path in the network.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising routing each traffic demand over a single path in the network.

4. (Currently Amended) A method of managing traffic flow across links of an information network comprising:

receiving a demand to route network traffic;

determining a demand size of the demand;

determining a routing procedure associated with the demand;

calculating a cost metric for each of a plurality of links of a network, the cost metric for each link being associated with information comprising the routing procedure and a link utilization, the link utilization being a ratio of link capacities; and

selecting a path to route network traffic with consideration to minimizing the maximum value of link utilization based on the calculated cost metric for each of the plurality of links.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4 wherein, the network traffic is routed over a multi-protocol label switching network.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4 wherein, the routing procedure is a shortest path routing procedure and the cost metric is determined by a ratio of the used link capacity and the demand size to the total link capacity.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4 wherein, the routing procedure is a shortest-widest path routing procedure and the cost metric is associated with a percentage of link idle capacity.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 wherein, if there are multiple candidate paths, the path with minimum hops or the shortest distance is chosen.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4 wherein, the routing procedure is a Min-Max link utilization routing procedure and the cost metric is associated with a maximum link utilization of the link, the demand size, and link utilization of the plurality of links.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9 wherein, the cost metric is adjusted by a small scalar value and the demand size where a cost metric for a link is the same as a cost metric for another link.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4 wherein, the routing procedure is a hybrid routing procedure and the cost metric is associated with the link utilization, the demand size, a maximum link utilization for the link, a number of hops of a minimum hop path for the demand, and the link utilization of the plurality of links.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein, the selected path to route network traffic is the shortest path.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4 wherein, selecting the path to route network traffic is based on a weight associated with the calculated cost metric for each of the plurality of links; each weight being manipulated in a open shortest path first network.

14. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium including computing instructions for managing traffic flow across links of an information network, the instructions comprising:

monitoring traffic demands from a source node of an information network to a destination node of the network, including bandwidths associated with each of the traffic demands;

determining for each traffic demand and for a given link of the network, that portion of the bandwidth associated with each traffic demand which portion is provided by the given link;

determining a maximum value of link utilization among all links of the network, where link utilization is defined as the amount of bandwidth used by all traffic demands routed through a given link with respect to a total capacity of the link;

calculating a cost metric for each link of the network based on information comprising the traffic demand and maximum value of link utilization;

selecting a path with consideration to minimizing the maximum value of link utilization based on each cost metric; and

routing the traffic demands across the path.

15. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 14, including instructions further comprising routing traffic demands over more than one path in the network.

16. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 14, including instructions further comprising routing each traffic demand over a single path in the network.

17. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium including computing instructions for managing traffic flow across links of an information network, the instructions comprising:

receiving a demand to route network traffic;

determining a demand size of the demand;

determining a routing procedure associated with the demand;

calculating a cost metric for each of a plurality of links of a network; the cost metric for each link being associated with information comprising the routing procedure and a link utilization, the link utilization being a ratio of link capacities; and

selecting a path with consideration to minimizing a maximum utilization value of link utilization to route network traffic based on the calculated cost metric for each of the plurality of links.

18. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 17 wherein, the network traffic is routed over a multi-protocol label switching network.

19 (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 17 wherein, the routing procedure is a shortest path routing procedure and the cost metric is determined by a ratio of the used link capacity and the demand size to the total link capacity.

20. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 17 wherein, the routing procedure is a shortest-widest path routing procedure and the cost metric is associated with a percentage of link idle capacity.

21. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 17 wherein, if there are multiple candidate paths, the path with minimum hops or the shortest distance is chosen.

22. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 17 wherein, the routing procedure is a Min-Max link utilization routing procedure and the cost metric is associated with a maximum link utilization of the link, the demand size, and link utilization of the plurality of links.

23. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 22 wherein, the cost metric is adjusted by a small scalar value and the demand size where a cost metric for a link is the same as a cost metric for another link.

24. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 17 wherein, the routing procedure is a hybrid routing procedure and the cost metric is associated with the link utilization, the demand size, a maximum link utilization for the link, a number of hops of a minimum hop path for the demand, and the link utilization of the plurality of links.

25. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 24 wherein, the selected path to route network traffic is the shortest path.

26. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 17 wherein, the selecting of the path to route network traffic is based on a weight associated with the calculated cost metric for each of the plurality of links; each weight being manipulated in a open shortest path first network.